



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - February 1, 2002

- ***In the West***, cool weather lingers in ***California and the Southwest***, although temperatures are not as low as yesterday morning's. Isolated showers are confined to ***northern California and the Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, winter wheat from ***southern Nebraska southward into Texas*** continues to benefit from recent topsoil moisture improvements, although some areas are still recovering from heavy snow and ice accumulations. Meanwhile, unfavorably dry conditions persist from ***western Nebraska northward through Montana***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow is gradually ending across the ***northern Corn Belt***, while colder air is overspreading the remainder of the region.
- ***In the South***, rain briefly returned to the ***Delta*** last night, maintaining wet field conditions. Farther east, showers are further easing long-term drought in the ***southern Appalachians***, while record warmth is promoting pasture and winter wheat growth in the ***southern Atlantic Coastal Plain***.

Outlook: A storm system will exit the ***East Coast*** later today, bringing an end to snowy, icy conditions in ***northern New England*** and rain showers elsewhere in the ***East***. Elsewhere, cool, relatively quiet weather will prevail into early next week, with showers confined to the ***Northwest*** and portions of the ***South***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 6-10 calls for a return of near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide, including unusually warm weather across the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***. A favorably wet weather pattern of near- to above-normal precipitation is forecast in several key areas, including the ***Northwest***, the ***East Coast States***, and areas from the ***central and southern Plains to the upper Midwest***. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather will be confined to the ***Southwest***.

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